

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows

1. (Currently amended) A fan blade comprising:

a plurality of fiber composite layers; and

a plurality of high elongation fiber composite strips joining one of said fiber composite layers at a joint, said high elongation fiber composite strips including a first high elongation fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a first direction, ~~and a second high elongation fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a second direction different than said first direction, and a third high elongation fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a third direction different than said first direction and said second direction.~~

2. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1 wherein:

the modulus of said high elongation fiber composite strips is from about 13,790 MPa to about 96,530 MPa.

3. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 2 wherein:

the modulus of said high elongation fiber composite strips is from about 41,370 MPa to about 62,055 MPa.

4. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1 wherein:

the tensile elongation of said high elongation fiber composite strips is at least about 1.75%.

5. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 4 wherein:

the tensile elongation of said high elongation fiber composite strips is at least about 3%.

6. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1 wherein:

at least one of said high elongation fiber composite strips is embedded within an interior surface of said fan blade.

7. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1 wherein:

said high elongation fiber composite strips are layered from a first outside surface of said fan blade towards an interior of said fan blade.

8. (Original) The fan blade of claim 7 wherein:

ends of said high elongation fiber composite strips are staggered such that a length of each high elongation fiber composite strip decreases as position from said first outside surface increases.

9. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 7 wherein:

said high elongation fiber composite strips are contiguously layered from a first outside surface of said fan blade towards an interior of said fan blade.

10. (Original) The fan blade of claim 7 wherein:

said high elongation fiber composite strips extend around a leading edge of said fan blade to a second outside surface of said fan blade, said high elongation fiber composite strips layered from said second outside surface of said fan blade towards said interior of said fan blade.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1₁ wherein:

said first direction is 45 degrees relative to a spanwise direction of said fan blade.

13. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 12 wherein:

said second direction is parallel to the spanwise direction of said fan blade.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The fan blade of claim [[14]] 1, wherein:

said first direction is 45 degrees relative to a spanwise direction of said fan blade;

said second direction is parallel to said spanwise direction of said fan blade; and

said third direction is -45 degrees relative to said spanwise direction of said fan blade.

16. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1 wherein:

at least one of said high elongation fiber composite strips is positioned at a leading edge of said fan blade.

17. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1 wherein:

at least one of said high elongation fiber composite strips is positioned at a leading edge, trailing edge and tip of said fan blade.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of making a fan blade comprising:

joining a plurality of fiber composite layers;

joining at least one high elongation fiber composite strip to one of said plurality of fiber composite layers, an end of said high elongation fiber composite strip meeting an end of said fiber composite layer at a joint.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein:

said plurality of fiber composite layers are joined using an adhesive.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein:

said plurality of fiber composite layers are joined using co-curing.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein:

said at least one high elongation fiber composite strip is joined to said fiber composite layer using an adhesive.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein:

said at least one high elongation fiber composite strip is joined to said fiber composite layer using co-curing.

23. (Previously presented) The fan blade of claim 1, wherein a plurality of fiber composite layers are interposed between respective ones of the high elongation fiber composite strips, such that at least a plurality of the high elongation fiber composite strips are not contiguous.

24. (Currently amended) The fan blade of claim 23, wherein at least some of the high elongation fiber composite strips have fibers oriented in a direction of about 45 degrees relative to the spanwise direction of the blade.

25. (Previously presented) The fan blade of Claim 1, wherein ends of said high elongation fiber composite strips are staggered such that:

a length of at least one of the high elongation fiber composite strips differs relative to the respective length of other ones of the high elongation fiber composite strips, and

the respective lengths of the high elongation fiber composite strips do not monotonically increase or monotonically decrease as position from said first outside surface increases.

26. (Currently amended) The fan blade of Claim 25, ~~wherein said high elongation fiber composite strips include a third high elongation fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a third direction different than said first direction and said second direction, and~~ wherein:

said first direction is parallel to a spanwise direction of said fan blade,

said second direction is 45 degrees relative to the spanwise direction of said fan blade, and

said third direction is -45 degrees relative to said spanwise direction of said fan blade.